



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/006,948  | 12/03/2001  | Robert J. Dugan      | POU920010169US1     | 2758             |
| 7590  | 09/07/2006  |                      | EXAMINER            |                  |
| Floyd A. Gonzalez<br>IBM Corporation<br>2455 South Road, P386<br>Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 |             |                      |                     | MATTIS, JASON E  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      |                     | 2616             |

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                 |              |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|                              | 10/006,948      | DUGAN ET AL. |
|                              | Examiner        | Art Unit     |
|                              | Jason E. Mattis | 2616         |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 2/12/02 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/01, 2/02</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities:

With respect to claim 1, lines 2-3 of claim 1 state "a channel adapter communicating between the partition and the fabric". It is unclear what specific partition is being claimed since there is a previous claim element of "multiple partitions". It is recommended that the word "partition" on line 3 of claim 1 be changed to "partitions". Claims 6, 11, and 16 also contain similar claim language to that of claim 1.

With respect to claim 4, line 3 states "the proposed name". There is no prior mention of any proposed name in claim 4 or claim 1, which claim 4 depends on. There is prior mention of a "proposed address" in line 2 of claim 4. It is recommended that the word "name" be changed to "address" in order to keep the claim language consistent.

Claims 9, 14, and 19 also contain similar claim language to that of claim 4.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-13, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ratcliff et al. (U.S. Pat. 5740438).

**With respect to claims 1, 6, 11, and 16,** Ratcliff et al. discloses a method, process, and computer program product stored on a computer readable medium for assigning addresses to a channel adapter in a data processing system including a server, multiple partitions, a fabric, and a channel adapter communicating between the partitions and the fabric (**See the abstract, column 4 lines 31-65, and Figure 3 of Ratcliff et al. for reference to a method, process, and program stored as software on a computer readable medium for to an address assigning method in a system, as shown in Figure 3, including processing system 11, which is a server, multiple partitions 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, and 21, a host to network interface 67, which is a fabric, and a channel connection 29, which is a connection from a port of a channel adapter of the processing system 11 to the host to network interface 67).** Ratcliff et al. also discloses sending multiple requests from the channel adapter to the fabric with each request being sent on behalf of a respective partition (**See column 5 lines 24-41 of Ratcliff et al. for reference to partitions of the processing system 11 sending initialization commands, which are address requests, to the host to network interface 67, with an initialization command being sent on behalf of each partition respectively**). Ratcliff et al. further discloses assigning a unique address identification to each partition for each request, storing the address identifications in a

Art Unit: 2616

table in the fabric, and returning the assigned address identification for each request with multiple addresses being assigned to the same channel adapter (**See column 5 line 53 to column 6 line 35 and Figures 4-5 of Ratcliff et al. for reference to the host to network interface 67 assigning unique addresses to each partition, storing the addresses in a network to host connection table, and returning the assigned addresses for each request with multiple addresses being assigned to each adapter, for example, partitions 2, 3, and 4 each being assigned a unique logical address through the same port 1**).

**With respect to claims 2, 7, 12, and 17, Ratcliff et al. disclosed establishing the table in the fabric responsive to the first request (**See column 5 lines 53-60 of Ratcliff et al. for reference to establishing entries in the network to host connection table responsive to an initialization sequence**).**

**With respect to claims 3, 8, 13, and 18, Ratcliff et al. discloses that the table is stored in a name server in the fabric (**See column 4 line 66 to column 5 line 18, column 5 lines 53-60, and Figure 4 of Ratcliff et al. for reference to the table being stored in a memory 83, that acts as a name server in the HNI 67**).**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4, 9, 14, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ratcliff et al. in view of Lioy (U.S. Pat. 6775553).

**With respect to claims 4, 9, 14, and 19,** Ratcliff et al. does not disclose sending a proposed address in a request and confirming that the proposed address is assigned.

**With respect to claims 4, 9, 14, and 19,** Lioy, in the field of communications, discloses sending a proposed address in a request and confirming that the proposed address is assigned (**See column 3 line 66 to column 4 line 11 of Lioy for reference to generating and sending a Configure-Request message, which is an address request message including an IP address, and for reference to sending a Configuration-Ack message, which is a message confirming that the address is assigned**). Sending a proposed address in a request and confirming that the proposed address is assigned has the advantage of allowing the device that will be using an address to determine its own address based on the device's needs.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, when presented with the work of Lioy, to combine sending a proposed address in a request and confirming that the proposed address is assigned, as suggested by Lioy, with the system and method of Ratcliff et al., with the motivation being to allow the device that will be using an address to determine its own address based on the device's needs.

6. Claims 5, 10, 15, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ratcliff et al. in view of Kanemaki et al. (U.S. Pat. 6081845).

**With respect to claims 5, 10, 15, and 20,** Ratcliff et al. does not disclose sending an updated address and updating address data stored with the updated address.

**With respect to claims 5, 10, 15, and 20,** Kanemaki et al., discloses sending an updated address and updating address data stored with the updated address (**See column 13 lines 24-32 of Kanemaki et al. for reference to sending a message to update the address of an address already stored in a table**). Sending an updated address and updating address data stored with the updated address has the advantage of allowing devices to notify an address server of an address change so that an address table of the address server has the most up to date address data.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, when presented with the work of Kanemaki et al., to combine sending an updated address and updating address data stored with the updated address, as suggested by Kanemaki et al., with the system and method of Ratcliff et al., with the motivation being to allow devices to notify an address server of an address change so that an address table of the address server has the most up to date address data.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason E. Mattis whose telephone number is (571) 272-3154. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jem



HUY D. VU  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600